Standard 4000-02
Concepts of Print

Knowledge about print is a critical skill for beginning readers and writers. Before young children can read or write, they must understand that print carries meaning, print is organized in a particular way, and print has a specific function within our society.

Many children come to school with this knowledge firmly in place. However, students with limited exposure to books need to be taught the elements of print such as directionality (i.e., front/back, top/bottom, left/right), an understanding that words are made up of letters, and that print contains the message.

Teachers should observe student behaviors to ensure that all children understand the various functions and conventions of printed text. Children's understanding of the concepts of print has been found to be a strong predictor of future reading achievement.

The following are possible suggestions and not all-inclusive:

Teacher Delivery
1. Provide explicit instruction on directionality.
2. Model directionality while reading aloud with students.
3. Provide opportunities for students to track words while being read to/reading.
4. Provide opportunities for students to locate author and title of a book.

Assessment
Formal:
Approved state, district, and school assessments.

Informal:
1. Observation.
2. Students demonstrate elements of directionality with a text.
3. Students identify letters and words.
4. Students track a printed page.
5. Students demonstrate book-handling skills.

Standard 4000-02   Concepts of Print (Continued)

Differentiation
1.   Provide explicit instruction and modeling of concepts of print while reading to individual or small groups of students according to need.
2.   Show sensitivity to students whose primary written language differs in script and/or format from written English.
3.   Provide visual, auditory, and kinesthetic instruction about print.
4.   Provide multiple opportunities for students to practice and demonstrate skills with print.

Home Connections
1.   Communicate the importance of print concepts to parents.
2.   Provide parents with a list of the essential elements of print concepts.